

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /011 R

66602

DRAFTED BY: S/ S- O: JDLEE

APPROVED BY: S/ S- O: KKURZE

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R 091724 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 065249

EXDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, INFO AMMAN, TEHRAN, KUWAIT,
APRIL 9, FROM JIDDA REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE S E C R E T JIDDA 1451

EXDIS

DEPT PASS USCINCEUR AND SECDEF

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS KU

SUBJ: KUWAITI REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE

REF: A. JIDDA 1319, TEHRAN 2166; C. KUWAIT 1147

1. AMBASSADOR HAS RAISED WITH BOTH DEPUTY FONMIN MAS' UD
AND MINSTATE FONAFAIRS SAQQAF QUESTION OF PRESENT
KUWAIT- IRAQ TENSION. NEITHER HAS BEEN VERY FORTH-
COMING. MAS' UD' S UNENLIGHTENING REACTION CONTAINED REFTEL A.

2. WHEN I MENTIONED SUBJECT TO SAQQAF APRIL 8, HE
COMMENTED THAT THERE ARE ENOUGH QUARRELS BETWEEN ARABS
THESE DAYS AND ONE MORE IS TOO MANY. HE WAS HOPEFUL
VISIT OF IRAQI DELEGATION TO KUWAIT MIGHT YIELD RESULTS.
HE THOUGH IT POSSIBLE KUWAITIS WOULD BE ABLE BUY OFF
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IRAQ WITH SUBSTANTIAL LOAN OR GRANT. SAQQAF HAD RETURNED TO SAUDI ARABIA FROM BEIRUT ONLY EVENING BEFORE I SAW HIM AND MAY NOT HAVE BEEN WELL INFORMED.

3. HOWEVER, MORE INCLINED INTERPRET SAUDI RETICENCE AS REFLECTING STRONG SAUDI HOPE THEY MAY BE ABLE STAY DISENGAGED. SAUDIS, AS WE KNOW, HAVE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT IRAQI FEINTS AT THEIR OWN BORDER; SAUDI ARMY IS AT PRESENT ENTIRELY IN WESTERN REGIONS, I. E., JORDAN, TABUK, TAIF AND KHAMIS MUSHAYT. THERE ARE NO TANKS IN EASTERN PART OF COUNTRY. HOWEVER, NATIONAL GUARD UNITS COULD BE MOVED ABOUT AS DEMONSTRATION OF STRENGTH. (GUARD HAS, OF COURSE, ONLY SMALL ARMS AND CREW- SERVED WEAPONS, PERUVIAN DELEGATION WOULD BE LACK OF PROGRESS ON THREE LOAN APPLICATIONS NOW AWAITING DECISION IDB BOARD. HE GAVE EMBOFFS IMPRESSION THAT PERU WOULD EXERT STRONG PRESSURE BOTH PRIOR TO MEETING AND AT MEETING ON THIS ISSUE. EMBASSY BELIEVES PERUVIAN DELEGATION WILL MAKE STRONG ATTACK ON IDB AND U. S. IF NO ACTION TAKEN ON THESE LOANS PRIOR TO MEETING. BROUSSET SAID OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES ON AGENDA INCLUDE PARTICIPATION BY NONMEMBER COUNTRIES IN BANK FINANCING AND ISSUE OF REEVALUATION OF BANK RESOURCES, ETC. RE RECENT CURRENCY REALIGNMENTS. BELCHER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE065249
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: JDLEE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730437/aaaahxyz.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A.JIDDA 1319, 73 TEHRAN 2166, C.KUWAIT 1147
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 30 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30-Jan-2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <22 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971212
Subject: KUWAITI REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE
TAGS: MASS, KU
To: CINCEUR
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005